

Service. Over her career, Shellie has served in the majority and minority, the House, Senate personal offices, three Committee staffs, as well as for a member of Senate leadership. I first met Shellie when she worked for a fellow member of the House Banking Committee.

Although she has worked on issues ranging from the creation of the 50 States Quarters program to the passage of tax incentives for donations to food banks, Shellie is best known for her work on global health issues. She was a lead staffer establishing the framework for the PEPFAR program. This legislation helped move HIV from a death sentence to a manageable disease. Shellie authored a report addressing management issues at the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Her recommendations were adopted by the Global Fund Board and the institution is currently in good financial shape.

In working on the oversight and investigations team on my staff, Shellie has not only covered global health, but all foreign assistance programs. She has stressed the need for stronger management and evaluation criterion. By asking thorough questions, the State Department and USAID realize that the Committee is paying attention to how government funds are spent, as we demand accountability.

Shellie has been a great mentor to junior Committee staff. I know she is not finished making a difference in the world. I wish Shellie much success as she moves to the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BARBARA
SHANNON-BANISTER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of my dear friend, Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister. She will retire from her position as the Chief of the Community Relations Division for the City of Aurora on December 31, 2018.

Dr. Shannon-Banister is a truly dedicated civil servant whose work over the length of her career has significantly benefitted my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, and the greater Denver Metropolitan area. In 1989, Dr. Shannon-Banister co-founded the Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), which is the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary care and other health-related services for the medically underserved not only in the City of Aurora but also for areas outside of Aurora.

As a fierce advocate for civil rights, Dr. Shannon-Banister also worked to bring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to Aurora, where she was instrumental in starting a new NAACP chapter in 1991. Her efforts gave the residents of Aurora, Colorado's third largest and most diverse city, an organization that fully understood the need to protect and advance the cause of civil rights.

A true icon of our community, she is also President and chief executive officer of the non-profit foundation, Grand Design Inc., that works to preserve African American culture through community outreach, hosting concerts, and visual arts performances.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister represents the very best in public service that the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer. I thank her and commend her for her decades of tireless and inspirational leadership on behalf of all of us in our community, our state, and our nation. I wish her all the best of luck and a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING JACKSON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS JROTC PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in Jackson Public Schools which has been developed over seven decades.

The first JROTC program in Jackson Public Schools was started in Central High School in 1936 and transferred to Lanier High School in 1971 after the program at Central High School was phased out. Today the Army JROTC Program is alive and well in all of Jackson Public Schools. Since the JROTC program began, thousands of students have been exposed to the ideals of leadership, character development, and citizenship training provided by JROTC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Public Schools JROTC program.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE H.W. BUSH,
HEROIC NAVAL AVIATOR, DIPLOMAT,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS,
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE,
VICE-PRESIDENT, LOVING HUSBAND
AND FATHER, BRIGHTEST OF A THOUSAND
POINTS OF LIGHT, AND 41ST PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero, George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, who last Friday, November 30, 2018, slipped the surly bonds of earth, reached out his hand, and touched the face of God.

His was a life of love: for God, for Country, and for family. George H.W. Bush, whom we lost at the age of 94, was a giant among men. He served our nation for most of the last seven decades, in so many of the institutions and sectors that make our country great.

We were all very lucky to have him as long as we did. As the second youngest naval aviator, he was shot down during one of countless flights in the Pacific theater of World War II, leaving him stranded in the ocean for many hours—his life in danger and with rescue uncertain. Fortunately for him and the hundreds of millions of people across the globe who were touched by his leadership and mourn

him today, he would be found alive and brought home. That night in September 1944 would prove fateful to this man, and the country he would serve and that we all love. When he returned home, he married the woman who would be by his side for 73 years and serve as our nation's First Lady, Barbara Pierce Bush. There was a bond so strong that it is perhaps no coincidence that they left us within mere months of one another. Together, they created a prolific and legendary American political dynasty dedicated to public service, including: a son who would serve as governor of Texas and later become the 43rd President, George W. Bush; and Jeb Bush, who would serve two terms as governor of Florida.

President George H.W. Bush's life was one marked by service to country: in the military, as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Texas, as part of our nation's diplomatic corps, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and as Vice President of the United States, before he would be elected the 41st President of the United States. His tenure as our nation's Chief Executive is one for which we should all be grateful, as he presided over a remarkable period of geopolitical transition and progress, including the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the successful administration of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and a commitment to denuclearization as a means to achieve diplomatic ends.

And, he did not let electoral defeat diminish him or his commitment to public service. When they were both former presidents, George H.W. Bush and his successor—the man who would deny him reelection—Bill Clinton, joined together to help victims following the devastating tsunami in Indonesia in 2004, and to help hurricane victims in New Orleans following Katrina. Throughout his long time in public life, he demonstrated unwavering fidelity to country, and it manifested itself in several ways, but is best articulated by President Bush himself, during his 1989 inaugural address: 'I've spoken of a thousand points of light, of all the community organizations, that are spread like stars throughout the nation doing good. I will go to the people and the programs that are the brighter points of light and I will ask every member of my government to become involved. The old ideas are new again because they are not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in.'

I know that today, people across the land and indeed the world are remembering this giant of American life. Of course, those of us in Houston also mourn and celebrate a neighbor, whom we loved, whose life we remember, and whose presence in our community is something we will forever cherish. Though he has departed, we are grateful for the time we shared with him and for his service to our nation. I mourn the passing of this statesman, but also celebrate his life. In this time, I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire Bush Family and hold them close in my heart. May God bless President George H.W. Bush, the entire Bush Family, and may he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.

LAVERN NORRIS GAYNOR

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Lavern Norris Gaynor a Happy 95th Birthday and to honor her for a lifetime of community service.

Mrs. Gaynor has dedicated her life to improving the well-being of her fellow citizens. The daughter of prominent Naples philanthropist Lester Norris, she learned the value of giving back in her youth and has carried on her family legacy.

Mrs. Gaynor has impacted the entire Naples community with her work, but she most cherishes the work she does for children in promoting early learning. She has been recognized as the Naples Daily News Citizen of the Year, Outstanding Philanthropist in 2015, and has twice been named the YMCA's Pre-eminent Pioneer, yet those closest to her say Mrs. Gaynor is humble and unassuming. Her work will impact our community for generations to come.

I thank Lavern for her service to the Naples community and wish her a Happy Birthday.

HONORING JOSH WEBB**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Josh Webb, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Josh has been on our team from the very beginning and has worked in a variety of capacities in our office, both in our Indiana and Washington, D.C. offices. He started as a field representative over six years ago, has been promoted five times, and currently serves as my District Director. In that role, he has organized hundreds of events, managed and developed our Indiana outreach strategy, handled our constituent casework services program, and has become one of my most trusted advisors.

On a personal note, Josh and I share a love of the life lessons of sports and a commitment to putting family first in our life. Josh has been my advisor, but more importantly, I consider Josh my friend. I appreciate his patience and consistent good humor as we traveled together throughout the 6th District.

I wish Josh continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. I have no doubt Josh's biggest impact on our state and nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Josh on in those efforts.

H.R. 390, IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of the Senate amendment

to H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017 in the House on November 27, 2018 by voice vote. The legislation has been presented to the President for his signature and I urge him to quickly sign the bill into law.

H.R. 390 is the culmination of years of work in Congress to help ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria who suffered horrific oppression at the hands of ISIS. The legislation will better channel humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery aid to genocide survivors through organizations currently working on the ground to help displaced populations return to their homes and rebuild their communities. Iraq is home to some of the oldest Christian communities in the world, yet less than 200,000 Christians remain in Iraq, down from 1.4 million in 2002.

In March of 2016, Congress took historic action when it declared that the brutal and systemic persecution of Christians, Yazidis, and other ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria by ISIS constituted genocide, one of only three times in history that Congress has made such a declaration.

Despite the powerful message Congress sent when it declared these atrocities as genocide, and appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance for these communities, U.S. aid has not reached these populations due to longstanding policies and practices of the federal government that prevent faith-based groups and other organizations from distributing foreign aid. Many of these faith-based groups are the only organizations working directly with survivors on the ground and have the expertise and knowledge of the region, its history, and culture to deliver this aid in the most effective way possible. Outdated policies in the Executive Branch should not stand in the way of the U.S. helping these suffering communities.

H.R. 390 supports entities conducting investigations into the perpetrators of these crimes to ensure they are held accountable. It is critical that evidence be collected and preserved so it can be used in court. It is also critical that our government works with foreign governments to identify and apprehend suspected perpetrators. Finally, the bill requires the U.S. government to identify and determine warning signs associated with genocide and crimes against humanity to help policymakers better respond to future campaigns against at-risk populations.

As the daughter of parents who fled religious persecution in the Middle East, I'm proud to have helped carry H.R. 390 through the Congress with the bill's sponsor in this effort to help the tens of thousands of survivors of genocide in Iraq and Syria, Congressman Chris Smith. He's been a tireless advocate on behalf of these persecuted communities and I applaud him for the work he has done to get this bill through Congress and to the President's desk.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE
SERVICE OF JESSICA KELCH

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to my Assistant

Staff Director, Jessica Kelch, for her six years of service on the staff of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Jessica has played an instrumental role in helping lead the Committee's extraordinary team of professional staff, managing and shepherding a variety of important, bipartisan bills through the legislative process to become law. Thanks to her impressive leadership, sharp instincts, and persistence, the Committee has enacted nearly two dozen legislative initiatives in this Congress alone, including bills to establish a new development finance corporation, combat food insecurity, and promote the role of women in peace negotiations and political processes. These have improved the lives of many worldwide.

Time and again, Jessica has proven her ability to build consensus and craft solutions to address a diverse array of difficult issues. I am particularly grateful for her candor, humor, and professionalism, but most importantly, for her dedication to serving her country, which I know she will continue to do with distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Thursday, November 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote No. 423. I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote No. 424.

HONORING MOLLY GILLASPIE**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Molly Gillaspie, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Molly served as my Communications Director for more than a year in my Washington, D.C. office and continued working in Indiana as part of our team throughout the past year. Molly was responsible for all my official communications and media relations, which included writing press releases, speeches, opinion editorials and more. Molly is an outstanding member of our staff who always came to work with a smile on her face. I am truly grateful for everything she has done for our team.

On a personal note, I admire Molly's commitment to her family. Molly works very hard and delivers great results. But, you always have the sense that Molly's priorities are in the right order.

I want to thank Molly for her friendship and dedication to our work. I wish her and her husband, Adam, continued success in all that God has planned for their family. I have no doubt Molly's biggest impact on our state and nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Molly on in those efforts.